UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/214
23 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 March 1995 from Mr. Vladislav Jovanovic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 22 March 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

Allow me to advance the positions of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the growing number of violations of the Security Council resolutions that were adopted concerning the crisis in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

As you know, United Nations military observers have, since 10 February 1995, provided information on a great number of transport planes which have landed at Tuzla Airport. Considering that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has confirmed that the Muslim forces continuously denied the United Nations observers access to the part of the airport under their control in the subsequent period as well (12 and 17 February), even after unscheduled flights had been registered, the assumption that the arms shipments for the Muslim side are at stake is highly justified.

I have to recall that Tuzla Airport, which was closed for some time, has been reopened at the insistence of the international community solely for the shipment of humanitarian assistance. Any abuse thereof is dangerous and unscrupulous, and the international community, including the United Nations, bears partial responsibility for it.

By flagrantly violating Security Council resolution 713 (1991) on the arms embargo in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and resolutions 781 (1992) and 816 (1993) on "no-fly zones", the Bosnian Muslim side, supported by certain members of the international community, ignores the decisions of the world Organization.

Unfortunately, though informed by the United Nations observers in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the violations of the above resolutions, the Security Council did not adequately respond and even failed to condemn them. Ignoring these illegal activities may not only lead to the heightening of the crisis, but may also endanger the peace efforts towards the attainment of a comprehensive political solution in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a whole.

In addition, I avail myself of this opportunity to recall that the Croatian authorities continue with the persecution and ethnic cleansing of the Serbs who live in the territory under their control. So far, 350,000 Serbs have fled the area. Over 30,000 Serb families have been evicted, and a large number have lost their jobs solely on the grounds of their nationality. Such conduct on the part of Croatia is in violation of Security Council resolutions 779 (1992) and 787 (1992).

Moreover, the Croatian Catholic Church, supported by the Croatian authorities, pursues systematic and organized conversion of the Serbs to Catholicism. The Serbs living in the areas under Croat control have been increasingly drafted to the Croat military forces and are being deployed most

often in the areas adjoining the United Nations protected areas (UNPAs), as well as in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are striking examples of the breaches of the basic principles of international law in the field of protection of human rights.

I also wish to draw you attention to the fact that the Croatian authorities are violating the Vance plan and Security Council resolution 802 (1993) by armed provocations along the delimitation line with the Republic of Serb Krajina.

Despite the agreement reached on the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula and its placement under UNPROFOR control, provided for in Security Council resolution 779 (1992), Croatia has been building military objects in this zone and is constantly engaged in various provocations.

Croatia has been receiving major quantities of the most sophisticated weapons and does not hesitate to broadcast it on national television. Also, its territory is extensively used for the arming of the Muslim army in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina. The units of the regular Croatian army are still deployed in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and are actively engaged in military operations. Such Croatian behaviour represents a gross violation of Security Council resolutions 713 (1991) and 787 (1992).

It is unacceptable that the international community, fully aware of all above facts, does not take any measures to prevent the violations of the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions.

By ignoring all these facts, the international community impedes the achievement of a peaceful solution to the crisis in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and will have to bear its part of the responsibility for the possible tragic consequences. I would therefore like to request you to initiate action in the Security Council as soon as possible in order to condemn those who violate the said resolutions as well as to undertake measures that would ensure their strict observance. This would create conditions for the efficient resolution of the crisis in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC